



World Wildlife Conservation Day

[Source: TH](#)

World Wildlife Conservation Day (4th December) serves as a reminder of India's rich biodiversity and the urgent need for action to protect its [critically endangered species](#).

- **History:** Originating from a 2012 pledge by the US State Department, the day encourages global action for wildlife preservation and sustainability.
- **India's Biodiversity:** India, a [megadiverse country](#) with only 2.4% of the world's land area, accounts for **7-8% of all recorded species, including 91,000 species of animals**.
 - India hosts four out of 34 globally recognized biodiversity hotspots, namely the **Himalayas, Indo-Burma, Western Ghats-Sri Lanka, and Sundaland**.
- **Threats to Wildlife:** Rapid economic development and population growth in India increase demand for natural resources, [conflicting with wildlife habitats](#).
 - [Poaching, trafficking, and land cultivation](#) lead to significant man-animal conflicts. Despite the importance of [wildlife sanctuaries](#) and [Biosphere Reserves](#), they lack fencing and face ongoing challenges.
 - While big cats like [tigers and lions](#) receive attention, **birds like the [Great Indian Bustard](#)** are often overlooked despite threats.
 - As of 2022, India has 73 critically endangered species, up from 47 in 2011, including 9 endemic mammal species.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Constitutional Provisions for Wildlife

42nd Amendment

Act, 1976: Forests & Protection of Wild Animals and Birds (moved from State to Concurrent List)

Article

48 A: State shall endeavor to protect & improve environment and safeguard forests and wildlife of country

Article

51 A (g): Fundamental duty to protect & improve natural environment including forests and Wildlife

Legal Frameworks

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Major Conservation Initiatives

Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH):

- Financial assistance provided to State/UT Governments for protection and conservation of wildlife
- A Centrally Sponsored Scheme

National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031)

Guidelines for Eco-tourism in Protected Areas

Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau: To combat wildlife-related crimes

Wildlife Division (MoEFCC):

- Policy and law for conservation of biodiversity and Protected Area network
- Technical and financial support to the State/ UTs under IDHW, Central Zoo Authority and Wildlife Institute of India

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB):

Collection, collation of intelligence & its dissemination, establishment of centralized Wild Life crime databank, coordination etc.

Wildlife Crime Control:

- Operation Save Kurma
- Operation Thunderbird

Species-Specific Initiatives

- Protection and conservation of Greater Adjutant in Gangetic riverine tract
- Dolphin Conservation in Non-Protected Area Segment of Ganga River
- Conservation Breeding Centre for Wild water buffalo (2020)
- Recovery programme for Snow leopard (2009)
- Recovery programme for Vultures (2006)
- Project Elephant (1992)
- Project Tiger/National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) (1973)

India's Collaboration with Global Wildlife Conservation Efforts

- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- World Heritage Convention
- Ramsar Convention
- The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC)
- United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
- International Whaling Commission (IWC)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Global Tiger Forum (GTF)



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